A Guide for Users of the DakotaStep Reporting Website

Important Information

This guide is divided into two fundamentally different sections, each of use to different types of users. The **Teachers** section will provide teachers with all the information needed to process reports for students in their classrooms. The section for **Administrators** will be useful to all levels of educational administrators, whether at the school, district, or state level. It includes generating aggregate reports using "as tested" data. "As tested" means the students are in the classes, schools and grades they were in during the previous spring semester.

Note for Macintosh users: The DakotaStep Reporting Website is available to Macintosh users **only** by running Mac OS X and Netscape 7.x. To enable scrolling, Netscape must be configured to the "Modern" theme setting. To do this:

- 1. Open Netscape
- 2. Select Edit --> Preferences
- 3. Expand "Appearance"
- 4. Select "Themes"
- 5. Select "Modern" theme
- 6. Click OK

Teachers

Unlike administrators who want to see data for students "as tested" the previous semester, teachers are primarily interested in seeing test results for the students in their classrooms. Because the data on the DakotaStep web site is organized by "as tested" information, teachers need to perform a process known as "**Rostering**," which will reorganize student data into classroom or section Rosters. The Roster feature is visible and accessible **only** to teachers.

Report results will be available after a Roster save is processed. This will occur at approximately 12:00am **EASTERN** time (11:00pm **CENTRAL**, 10:00pm **MOUNTAIN**) and be available the following morning. After the database has regenerated and includes the new groupings, each teacher can see the test results for all students added to the Roster. Even though each student is probably in a new grade, the **test results shown will always reflect last spring's grade level** because that was their grade when the students were tested.

Logging On to the DakotaStep Standards Web Site:

- 1. In your Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer browser, go to the following web site URL: http://www.state.sd.us/deca/crt/Index.htm and follow the link to **DakotaStep Standards Website**.
- 2. In the **Username** text box, type the user name you have been provided.
- 3. In the **Password** text box, type the password you have been provided (note: the password **IS** case sensitive).
- 4. Click the **Login** button.

Wait for the page to load. This may take a few moments. When it is fully loaded, the semi-transparent **Portal Menu**, which contains useful folders and links, should be visible.

Creating a Roster of Students:

- 1. In the **Portal Menu**, click to expand the **STEP Roster Reports** folder.
- 2. Click on the **Roster** utility link Roster
- 3. When the **Roster** screen appears, click anywhere out side the **Portal Menu** to collapse it.
- 4. Click the **My Roster** drop-down arrow in the top-left portion of the screen, under **Teacher Name**.
- 5. Click the **New Roster** radio button.
- 6. Click the **Accept** button.
- 7. Locate the **Type Student ID** text box in the top-right of the screen, then highlight the number that is filled in the box by default and delete it.
- 8. Next you will make a list in this text box of all students to be Rostered into the new classroom/section. You will need student SIMMS numbers.

NOTE: Student SIMMS numbers can be entered one at a time, but the most efficient way to create a Roster is to add a list of student numbers all at once. Simply type the first number, type a comma *with no space*, then the next number, and continue until the entire list is entered. Lists can be prepared in advance in any text program, copied, and pasted into the **Type Student ID** box as long as numbers are separated by commas, no spaces.

9. After typing, click the **Add** button.

After five to ten seconds, this should produce a preview similar to the following list of students, along with additional student information:

I	Student ID	Name
	146850000	QUISENBERRY, CORY
	146860000	QUIJADA, CLAUDE
	146870000	PULLINS, MIYOKO
	146880000	PUCCIO, ERIK

NOTE: Accuracy in this step is crucial. Taking a few minutes to thoroughly check this preview of your student Roster list can save much time. Furthermore, the yellow highlighted list is only a preview. **Until it is saved, any overwriting or adding of further students to the list will erase the current viewed Roster preview**. Therefore, if you have made any mistakes, simply delete the student numbers in the **Type Student ID** text box, write in the correct student numbers provided above, and once again click **Add**.

10. Once you are satisfied with the accuracy of your Roster, click the **Save** icon in the report toolbar at the top of the page.

The **Save As** dialog will open, allowing you to type a name for this Roster.

NOTE: Make sure to select a descriptive name that is meaningful to you for future use, as your reports will contain <u>ALL</u> saved Rosters, requiring you to discern one from another according to the names you have applied in this step.

11. After typing an appropriate, descriptive name for the Roster, click **Accept**. The **Roster** screen will reappear, allowing you to create another Roster is you wish.

NOTE: Processing of the data occurs at approximately 12:00am **EASTERN** time (11:00pm **CENTRAL**, 10:00pm **MOUNTAIN**,) making newly-created Rosters available for reporting the following morning. This is why crosschecking for accuracy in your Roster lists is of vital importance.

Accessing a Report on a Roster of Students:

1. After logging in, notice the floating **Portal Menu**.

2. In the **Portal Menu**, expand the **STEP Roster Reports** folder by clicking on the icon, and then click on either **Roster Individual Reading & Math Report** or **Roster Individual Standards Report**.



Wait a few moments while the report is loaded.

- 3. Click outside the **Portal Menu** to collapse it.
 - The *Roster Individual Reading and Math Report* provides general information on student test results in Reading and Math. The *Roster Individual Standards Report* Information provides more specific Standards results.
- 4. Open the **Students Rerostered** window to select which **Roster** of students you wish to generate a report on and click **Accept**. To avoid clutter, open the **Standards** window to select only the applicable grade levels. The **Measures** window allows you to select what information you want to display.

"Drilling into" a Report on a Roster of Students

With a Report open, note that, initially, all that is shown are student counts (also called "n-counts") for students who have completed the STEP test in the areas of Reading and Math. "Drilling Into" allows access to more-detailed information.

1. Move your cursor over your name in the left column of the report spreadsheet, noting how it becomes an underlined hyperlink and your cursor becomes the "hand" tool used for opening a link:



- 2. Left-click the name to expand the list.
- 3. You will notice that the spreadsheet of report results is partially obscuring the roster name. Move your cursor to the top-left side of the spreadsheet until it becomes a pair of parallel lines with arrows pointing in opposite directions, as follows:



Left-click and "drag" the spreadsheet to the right side of the screen until all the text of the Roster list is visible:



4. Click on a roster, expanding it to show the individual students you Rostered.

Now you should be able to view all relevant test information for the individual students in Reading and Math.

Using Slice Options on a Report

With a report open, and expanded to the level of individual student information, note the panel at the top of the screen, above the solid black line. This panel contains a series of drop-down boxes such as "Grade," "Ethnicity," "Proficiency," etc. These boxes, are called **Slice Options**, and are available for the purpose of creating reports based on specific demographic information. These boxes contain "radio buttons" which allow only **ONE** choice. Example: A report might include all students who scored in the Advance range.

1. Click the **Proficiencies** Slice drop-down arrow in the bottom-right corner of the **Slice Options** panel:



2. Click the **Advanced** radio button.

Click the **Accept** button.

After a few moments, the report will reload, showing only those students who have scored in the Advanced Proficiency level of Reading or Math. Slice options can be useful for many things, including determining students who might be considered for gifted and talented programs, or who may need additional instruction in given subject areas.

Saving a Report

To help save you the time of expanding, drilling into, and/or slicing a particular report every time you log on, the South Dakota Online STEP Reporting site allows you to save each report you create for later use, and enables you to access saved reports quickly.

1. In the *SwiftKnowledge* toolbar at the top of a report, click either the **Save** or **Save As** button (both buttons will open the exact same dialog):

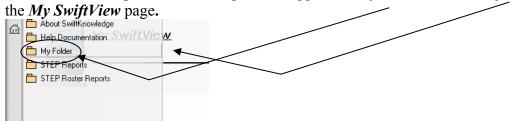


The **Save As** dialog will open, allowing you to name and save your report.

2. In the **Report Name** text box, type a meaningful name.

NOTE: Make sure to select a **descriptive name** that is meaningful to you for future use, as your folder will contain <u>ALL</u> saved Reports, requiring you to discern one from another according to the names you have applied in this step.

3. Leave the **Save In Folder** and **Add to SwiftLinks** textboxes set to their default entries, and click the **Accept** button. The report will appear in **My Folder** and in **SwiftLinks** on the **My SwiftLinks** on

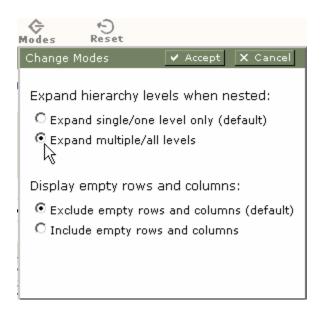


Opening and Expanding a Report

- 1. From the **Portal Menu**, click on **Step Roster Reports** or **My Folder** and open a report.
- 2. In the report toolbar, click on the **Modes** button:

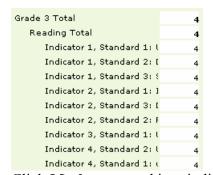


3. In the Change Modes dialog, click the Expand multiple/all levels radio button.



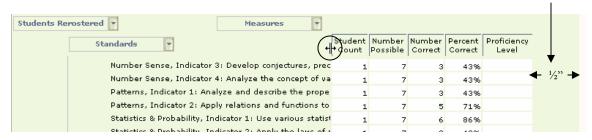
The effect of this selection is to make drilling into data more efficient. The **Individual Standards Report** in particular has several levels of data; this button allows you to make choices about expanding this data globally rather than performing the expansion for every individual student.

- 4. Click Accept.
- 5. Open the **Students Rerostered** window to select which **Roster** of students you wish to generate a report on and click **Accept**. To avoid clutter, open the **Standards** window to select only the applicable grade levels. The **Measures** window allows you to select what information you want to display.
- 6. Click "Grade __" Total to expand it.
 The Subject areas "Reading" and "Math" will appear.
 Click Reading to expand it to individual standards.



- 7. Click **Math** to expand it to individual standards.
- 8. Now, return to the top of the list and click your name to expand the list of Rosters.

- 9. Scroll down and click the link for the roster you've chosen. It will take several seconds for the list to expand all of the individual students.
- 10. Once the list is expanded, scroll down and note that each of the individual students is expanded to the level of Standards in Reading and Math. This is because of the selection you made in Step 3 of this exercise. Had you not made this selection initially, you would have had to scroll through and expand each student name individually. Click and drag the report spreadsheet to the right (as described in Step 3 of "Drilling into" a Report on a Roster of Students, above), in order to see the text of each standard.
- 11. Once you have looked at some of the standard texts, drag the spreadsheet back to the left until its far right edge is about ½ inch from the right side of the green report panel:



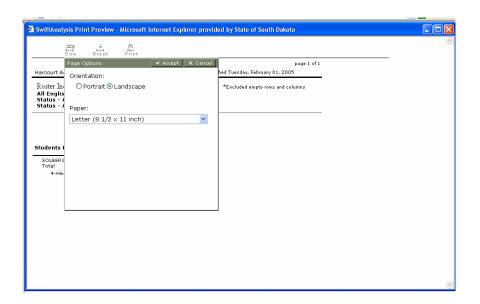
This step is important for ensuring that reports print efficiently. If you do not drag the report spreadsheet to the right, reports will be printed with all the standard text wrapped down a small column on the left side of pages, requiring many more printed pages; however, moving the spreadsheet too far to the right will cause some report results to be cut off. You will need to experiment with a few printed reports to find the ideal location for dragging the report spreadsheet.

- 12. Apply any combination of Slices desired. This process can take several seconds.
- 13. Scroll down and you will see the student(s) that meet the criteria you selected as Slices.

NOTE: Although the teacher appears in the report with only the selected student, it is important to realize that the aggregate results shown for the teacher are totals for **all** students in the class, not merely the student shown on the report.

Printing a Report

- 1. After opening/expanding a report, click the **Print** button in the report toolbar. A print preview will appear, and you may notice that the **Proficiency Level** column is broken off the right side of the report. You will fix this in the next step.
- 2. In the preview toolbar, click on the **Size** button.
- 3. Select the **Landscape** radio button as well as any changes you've made to paper size:

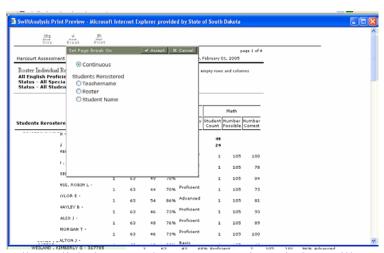


4. Click Accept.

Note that the format of the print preview changes and now the **Proficiency Level** column is attached to the right side of the report. Also, be advised that *changing the print preview format does not make any changes to your PC's default printer settings*. You will do this in the next few steps.

5. In the preview toolbar, click the **Break** button. This **Set Page Break On** dialog allows you to control where pages are broken in the printed report. For instance, you can control page breaks to ensure that pages do not cut off half way through a given individual's test results.

Example: By selecting the **Student Name** radio button, and clicking **Accept**, the preview is reloaded with pages set to break at the end of each individual student's test results.

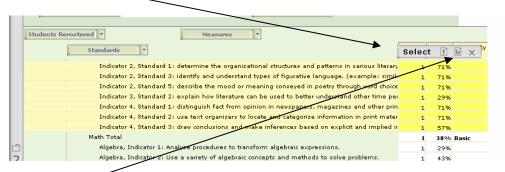


- 6. In the preview toolbar, click the **Print** button. A warning window will open reminding you to select landscape and your selected paper size. Your computer's default printer dialog will open.
- 7. Click the **Basics** tab of the **print** dialog and select the **Landscape** orientation radio button. As noted above, *this is necessary to ensure that your printer actually prints pages with the Landscape orientation*.
- 8. Click Print.

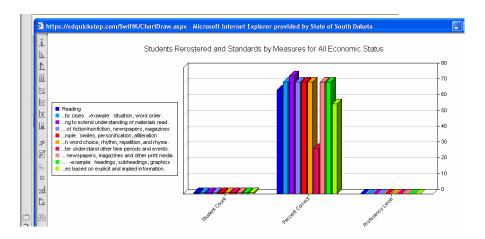
Creating Charts and Graphs

Data can be viewed graphically to aid in its interpretation. Displayed in this manner, it might be easier to present to parents or other stakeholders.

1. Drag from upper left to lower right of selected area. The selection is highlighted in yellow and a selection box appears.



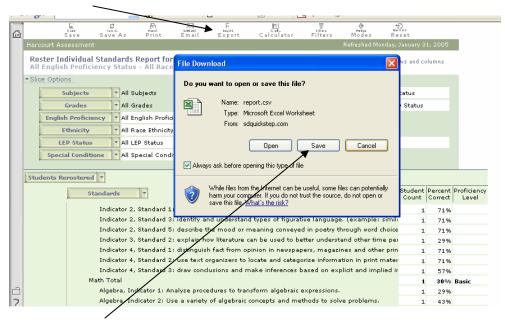
2. Click the Chart icon.



Exporting to Excel

Exporting data to Excel allows work "offline," especially effective if working on a slow, dial-up connection. While data can be exported out, it can **NOT** be imported back into SwiftKnowledge.

1. Click the Export icon.

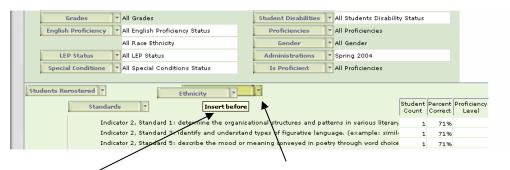


2. Click on the Save button. You will be prompted for a location and a file name. The .csv suffix denotes Comma Separated Values which Excel can open and translate.

Drag and Drop

Dragging and dropping Slice Option drop-down boxes below the solid black line allows multiple choices rather than the one-choice radio boxes. This might be useful in analyzing several ethnic groups at once for example.

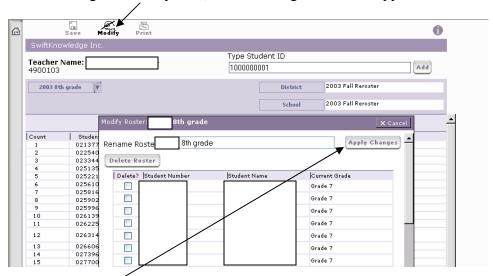
1. Click and drag the desired Slice Option drop-down box over, slightly left, or slightly right of an existing box as illustrated.



- 2. Note that the bottom box is highlighted yellow, and that, depending on position, an "Insert before," "Insert after," or "Swap" dialog appears. Release the mouse button when the box is in the desired position.
- 3. To remove the box, drag it back above the solid line.

Deleting Students from Rosters

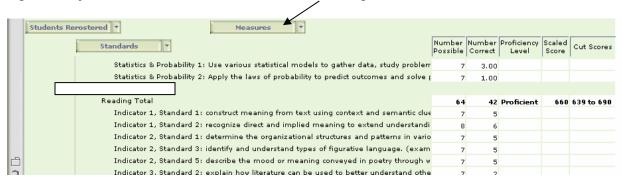
- 1. From the Portal menu, click on **STEP Roster Reports** and click on **Roster**.
- 2. Under "My Roster," select the roster to be modified and click Accept.
- 3. After clicking the Modify icon, the following screen will appear.



4. The entire roster or individual students can then be deleted, or the roster renamed. Once "Apply Changes" has been clicked, the same process as creating a new roster takes place in that changes will not be in place until the following morning.

Where to Find "Cut" and "Scale" Scores

Cut scores are calculated points that separate different proficiency levels. Scale scores are mathematically-derived from raw scores and enable the tracking of growth over time for a given subject. Both are found under the Measures drop-down.

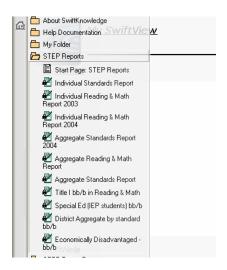


Administrators

Log On to the South DakotaStep Standards Web Site:

- 1. In your Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer browser, go to the following web site URL: http://www.state.sd.us/deca/crt/Index.htm and follow the link to DakotaStep Standards Website.
- 2. In the **Username** text box, type the username provided to you.
- 3. In the **Password** text box, type the password provided (note, the password **IS** case sensitive).
- 4. Click the **Login** button. Wait for the page to load. This may take a few moments. When it is fully loaded, the semi-transparent **Portal Menu**, which contains useful folders and links, should be visible.

STEP Reports Available



Accessing and "Drilling into" a Report:

NOTE: Sample, fictitious data is used in the following as a guide. Your data will be different.

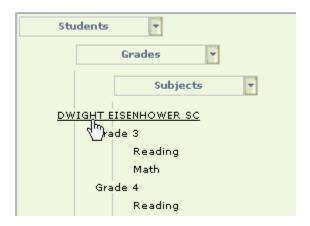
1. In the Portal Menu, click the STEP Reports folder to expand it:



- 2. Click to open the desired report (In this case: Aggregate Reading & Math Report.)
- 3. Click outside the **Portal Menu** to collapse it.

 The current report view offers aggregate results by grade for all students in "Dwight Eisenhower School"

Click **Dwight Eisenhower Sc** to expand it:



- 4. Scrolling down the page, you will see that the school has been expanded to show aggregate class results for four individual teachers.
- 5. Click to expand teacher **Johnson**.

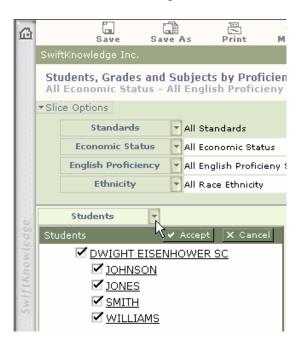
 This report can be expanded to show **general** results for individual students; however much more detailed test information on individual students can be found in both the *Individual Standards Report* and the *Individual Reading and Math Report*.

Limiting a Report to Individual Teachers and Students

NOTE: Sample, fictitious data is used in the following as a guide. Your data will be different.

On occasion—especially if you intend to print a report—you will sometimes want to limit the information on the report to a subset of the report population. There are a few different ways to accomplish this, but the most common is described by the following.

1. With teacher **Johnson** still expanded from the previous exercise, locate and click on the **Students** dimension drop-down arrow in the top-left corner of the report panel:



NOTE: The functioning of the Students dimension can be a little tricky. Seemingly, it would be easy enough to isolate Johnson and Smith by simply canceling the checkmarks for teachers Jones and Williams. However, when running live data, there might be dozens or even hundreds of individual teacher names, and this method would become very laborious. There is an easier way, described below, for choosing to select only a few individuals from a large group.

In the **Students** dialog, click to collapse **Dwight Eisenhower Sc**:



- 2. Click to cancel the checkmark next to **Dwight Eisenhower Sc**, and then click the school name again to expand it.
 - Note that no teachers are now selected for reporting.
- 3. Click the checkboxes by **Johnson** and **Smith** to select them.

 A report could now be generated by clicking the **Accept** button; however, before moving on, the following steps will demonstrate how to select only specific students for reporting.
- 4. Click teacher **Jones** (the name, **NOT** the check box).

 After a few moments, a list of Jones's students will appear under the teacher name. Note that, because Jones was not check-marked, all of her students are likewise unchecked—had Jones been selected, all students would be checked by default.
- 5. After clicking on three of Jones's students: **Defreitas**, **Dipaolo** and **Fishel**, and scrolling back up, note that the blank check box next to **Jones** has turned green, indicating that a partial list of the teacher's students has been selected for this report. If you ran the report right now, however, teacher Jones's name would not appear, and you would have difficulty discerning from which classroom these three students came. To fix this problem:
- 6. Once again, click on the check box next to **Jones**. Now only the teacher name and her three selected students will appear in the report, along with all students from teachers Johnson and Smith.

NOTE: Although Jones appears in the report with only three selected students, it is important to realize that the aggregate results shown for Jones are totals for **all** students in the class, not merely the three students shown on the report.

7. Click the **Accept** button.

A report appears which includes only those teachers and students whom you have selected. You could now simply choose to save this report, and it would be quickly available to you from **My Folder** in the **Portal Menu**, in the form you have created—expanded to the individual student level for the selected students.

Using Slice Options on a Report

The panel at the top of the screen, above the solid black line contains a series of drop-down boxes such as "Ethnicity," "English Proficiency," "LEP Status," etc. These boxes, called **Slice Options**, are available for the purpose of creating reports based on specific demographic information. These boxes contain "radio buttons" which allow only **ONE**

choice. A report might thus be tailored to include just Asian students who are Proficient English speakers.

1. Click the **English Proficiency** Slice drop-down arrow in the **Slice Options** panel:



- 2. Click the **Learner** radio button.
- 3. Click the **Accept** button.

 After a few moments, the report will reload, showing only students who meet the selected criteria.

Saving a Report

To help save you the time of expanding, drilling into, and/or slicing a particular report every time you log on, the South Dakota Online STEP Reporting site allows you to save each report you create for later use, and enables you to access saved reports quickly.

1. In the *SwiftKnowledge* toolbar at the top of the report, click either the **Save** or **Save As** button (both buttons will open the exact same dialog):

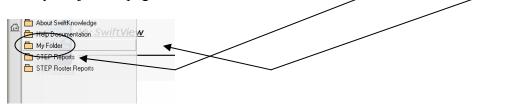


The **Save As** dialog will open, allowing you to name and save your report.

2. In the **Report Name** text box, type a meaningful name.

NOTE: Make sure to select a descriptive name that is meaningful to you for future use, as your folder will contain <u>ALL</u> saved Reports, requiring you to discern one from another according to the names you have applied in this step.

4. Leave the **Save In Folder** and **Add to SwiftLinks** textboxes set to their default entries, and click the **Accept** button. The report will appear in **My Folder** and in **SwiftLinks** on the **My SwiftView** page.



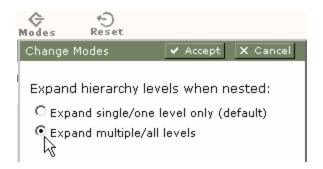
Opening and Expanding a Report

NOTE: Sample, fictitious data is used in the following as a guide. Your data will be different.

- 1. From the **Portal Menu**, click on a desired report (In this example: **Individual Standards Report**.)
- 2. In the report toolbar, click on the **Modes** button:



3. In the Change Modes dialog, click the Expand multiple/all levels radio button.

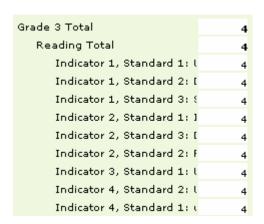


The effect of this selection is to make drilling into data more efficient. The **Individual Standards Report**, in particular, has several levels of data; this button allows you to make choices about expanding this data globally rather than performing the expansion for every individual student.

- 4. Click Accept.
- 5. Click **Grade 3 Total** to expand it.

The Subject areas "Reading" and "Math" will appear.

Click **Reading** to expand it to individual standards.



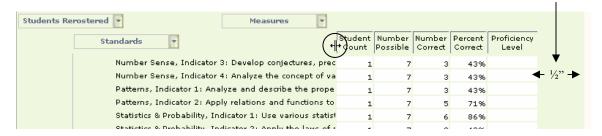
- 6. Click **Math** to expand it to individual standards.
- 7. Now, return to the top of the list and click **Dwight Eisenhower Sc** to expand the list of teachers.
- 8. Scroll down and click the links for teachers to expand them to the individual student level. It will take several seconds for the list to expand all of the individual students.

- 9. Once the list is expanded, scroll down and note that each of the individual students is expanded to the level of Standards in Reading and Math. This is because of the selection you made in Step 3 of this exercise. Had you not made this selection initially, you would have had to scroll through and expand each student name individually.
- 10. You will notice that the spreadsheet of report results is partially obscuring the Standards texts. Move your cursor to the top-left side of the spreadsheet until it becomes a pair of parallel lines with arrows pointing in opposite directions, as follows:



Left-click and "drag" the spreadsheet to the right side of the screen until the text of Standards is visible.

11. Once you have looked at some of the Standards texts, drag the spreadsheet back to the left until its far right edge is about ½ inch from the right side of the green report panel:

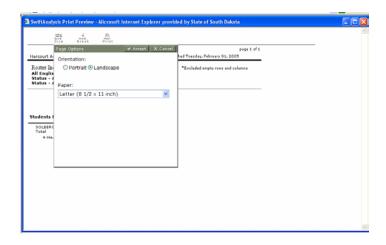


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12. Example: In the **Proficiencies** Slice Option drop-down box, you could select the **Advanced** Slice. After a few moments, the report would reload, showing only those students who have scored in the Advanced Proficiency level of Reading or Math.

Printing a Report

- 1. After opening/expanding a report, click the **Print** button in the report toolbar. A print preview will appear, and you may notice that the **Proficiency Level** column is broken off the right side of the report. To fix this:
- 2. In the preview toolbar, click on the **Size** button.
- 3. Select the **Landscape** radio button:



4. Click Accept.

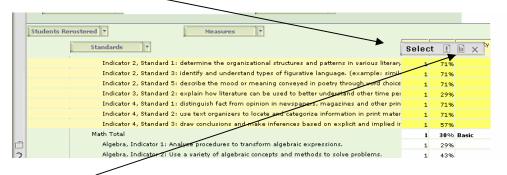
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- 7. Click the **Basics** tab of the **Print** dialog and select the **Landscape** orientation radio button
 - As noted above, this is necessary to ensure that your printer actually prints pages with the Landscape orientation.
- 8. Click Print.

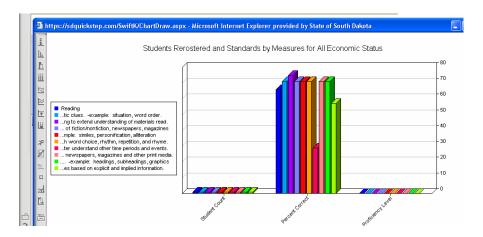
Creating Charts and Graphs

Data can be viewed graphically to aid in its interpretation. Displayed in this manner, it might be easier to present to parents or other stakeholders.

1. Drag from upper left to lower right of selected area. The selection is highlighted in yellow and a selection box appears.



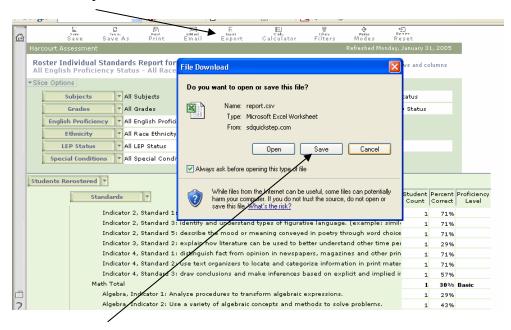
2. Click the Chart icon.



Exporting to Excel

Exporting data to Excel allows work "offline," especially effective if working on a slow, dial-up connection. While data can be exported out, it can **NOT** be imported back into SwiftKnowledge.

1. Click the Export icon.

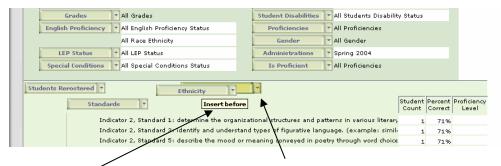


2. Click on the Save button. You will be prompted for a location and a file name. The .csv suffix denotes Comma Separated Values which Excel can open and translate.

Drag and Drop

Dragging and dropping Slice Option drop-down boxes below the solid black line allows multiple choices rather than the one-choice radio boxes. This might be useful in analyzing several ethnic groups at once for example.

1. Click and drag the desired Slice Option drop-down box over, slightly left, or slightly right of an existing box as illustrated.



- 2. Note that the bottom box is highlighted yellow, and that, depending on position, an "Insert before," "Insert after," or "Swap" dialog appears. Release the mouse button when the box is in the desired position.
- 3. To remove the box, drag it back above the solid line.

Where to Find "Cut" and "Scale" Scores

Cut scores are calculated points that separate different proficiency levels. Scale scores are mathematically-derived from raw scores and enable the tracking of growth over time for a given subject. Both are found under the Measures drop-down.

